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Control: 11602

EUR

FROM: BERLIN

Rec'd:

AUGUST 19, 1958
3:31 P.M.

Info

RMR

TO: Secretary of State

SS

NO: 158, AUGUST 19, 3 P.M.

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PRIORITY.

SENT BONN PRIORITY 142, REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON, MOSCOW,
PARIS UNNUMBERED DEPARTMENT PRIORITY 158.BONN PASS PRIORITY USAFE (ADVON RAMSTEIN) UNNUMBERED, USAFE
(WIESBADEN), 47 USAREUR.FOLLOWING OUR TRANSLATION NOTE FROM SOVIET CHIEF CONTROLLER,
BASC, TO AMERICAN COUNTERPART DELIVERED AFTERNOON AUGUST 19:

OCB

USIA

CIA

OSD

ARMY

NAVY

AIR

BEGIN TEXT.

DESPITE YOUR REPEATED ASSURANCES TO EFFECT THAT COMMAND OF
U.S. AIR FORCES EUROPE HAS BEEN TAKING PROPER MEASURES WITH VIEW
TO PREVENTING VIOLATIONS BY U.S. JET FIGHTERS OF BOUNDARY
OF GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, THESE GROSS VIOLATIONS CONTINUE
TO TAKE PLACE.THUS, ON AUGUST 13, 1958, AT 1746 MOSCOW TIME, FROM AIR SPACE
OF GDR (SIC) 2 JET FIGHTERS VIOLATED BOUNDARY OF GDR IN
DISTRICT HEILIGENSTADT AT ALTITUDE 6,000 METERS. THE VIOLATING
AIRCRAFT PENETRATED TERRITORY GDR UP TO 20 KILOMETERS IN
DIRECTION NORTHWEST OF ERFURT, WHERE THEY DEPLOYED AT 1749
MOSCOW TIME AND, KEEPING COURSE 230 DEGREES, LEFT AIR SPACE
GDR 40 KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF EISENACH AT 1753 MOSCOW TIME.ON AUGUST 15, 1958, AT 1234 MOSCOW TIME, ONE JET FIGHTER,
FLYING FROM TERRITORY GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC, PENETRATED
AIR SPACE GDR WITH ALTITUDE 5,000 METERS AND SPEED 850
KILOMETERS/HOUR IN REGION 20 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF HABERSTADT.
THE VIOLATING AIRCRAFT LEFT TERRITORY GDR AT 1236 MOSCOW
TIME

PERMANENT

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-2- 158, AUGUST 19, 3 P.M., FROM BERLIN

TIME 30 KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF HALBERSTADT.

ON SAME DAY, AT 1244 MOSCOW TIME, TWO F-84 JET FIGHTERS WITH IDENTIFICATION MARKS OF U.S. AIR FORCE (TAIL NUMBER OF ONE BEING 27317) PENETRATED AIR SPACE GDR IN AREA 30 KILOMETERS WEST OF NORDHAUSEN. AT 1248 MOSCOW TIME, THE VIOLATING AIRCRAFT LEFT AIR SPACE OF GDR IN AREA 40 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF GOTHA. HOWEVER, AT 1250 MOSCOW TIME, THEY AGAIN CROSSED GDR DEMARCATION LINE IN AREA 30 KILOMETERS WEST OF GOTHA AND LEFT IN DIRECTION GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC IN AREA 55 KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF GOTHA AT ALTITUDE 4,6000 METERS AND SPEED 600 KILOMETERS/HOUR AT 1252 MOSCOW TIME. ON THIS OCCASION, THESE AIRPLANES FAILED TO FOLLOW COMMANDS ESTABLISHED FOR LANDING AND LEFT TERRITORY GDR WITH COURSE 240 DEGREES.

CASES OF BOUNDARY VIOLATIONS OF GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, AS STATED ABOVE, PROVE THAT REPEATED STATEMENTS BY COMMAND U.S. AIR FORCE EUROPE ABOUT TAKING MEASURES TO PREVENT SUCH VIOLATIONS ACTUALLY HAVE NOT BEEN FOLLOWED, AND REFERENCE MADE TO NAVIGATIONAL ERRORS AND DIFFICULTIES AND OTHER "OBJECTIVE" REASONS, CONSIDERING CONTEMPORARY AIRCRAFT NAVIGATION EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS GROUND CONTROL DEVICES, IS CONSIDERED UNFOUNDED.

APART FROM FACT THAT INSTANCES OF INVASION AIR SPACE GDR BY AMERICAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT CONSTITUTE A GROSS VIOLATION OF SOVEREIGNTY GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND GENERALLY RECOGNIZED PROVISIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND GIVE RISE TO VIGOROUS LEGITIMATE PROTESTS BY COMPETENT ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT OF GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC- SUCH ACTIONS OF U.S. MILITARY AVIATION CONSTITUTE SERIOUS THREAT TO SAFETY OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT OVER TERRITORY OF GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. THEREFORE, SOVIET SECTION, BASC, ONCE AGAIN FIRMLY PROTESTS TO AMERICAN SECTION, EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE THAT THE AMERICAN COMMAND WILL FINALLY TAKE PROPER MEASURES TO DISCONTINUE UNAUTHORIZED INVASIONS OF AMERICAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT INTO AIR SPACE GDR AND, FURTHERMORE, DEEMS IT NECESSARY POINT OUT THAT ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONSEQUENCES OF SIMILAR UNLAWFUL ACTIONS SHALL BE BORN ENTIRELY BY THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES.

END TEXT.

COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SOVIETS NOTE REVEALS SOME GROWING IMPATIENCE AT OUR PERSISTENT VIOLATIONS, IT INTERESTING AND POSSIBLY OMINOUS THAT GDR HAS GOTTEN INTO ACT WITH PRIOR OFFICIAL (SEE REFTEL).

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